

Statement of Martin Sbriglio  
on behalf of the  
Connecticut Alliance for Subacute Care Facilities  
January 27, 2009

Sen. Prague, Rep. Serra and members of the committee:

My name is Martin Sbriglio. I am CEO of Ryder's Health, which operates a number of small nursing homes in Connecticut. I also serve as president of the Connecticut Alliance of Subacute Care Facilities, an association incorporated here in the state with several affiliated members.

I would like to make one point in regard to three bills on your agenda today—Senate Bill ~~450~~, SB 454 and SB 455.

I understand the motivation and arguments in favor of these bills.

My only point is one of "caution". All three bills will add costs to nursing homes. But, there is no assurance that we will be fairly reimbursed for these new mandates.

We will be happy to have higher staffing levels, for instance. Just reimburse us fairly for it..

We understand you want more oversight over nursing homes. That's fine. It means I need more staff to implement the rules—please just make sure I am reimbursed fairly for these new costs.

We have been receiving "below inflation" rate increases from the state for several years now even as our costs go through the roof.

You've read about more nursing homes going into bankruptcy.

These bills, while well-intentioned, could have that same effect unless you ensure that the mandates are fully funded in new rates to us.

I am not some huge out-of-state conglomerate. My family has been in the business of caring for seniors in Connecticut for over 50 years. We pride ourselves at the level of care we provide our residents.

We want the highest quality care for our residents. I know you do, too. But please help us. If you enact these three bills, then please make sure they are fully funded. Thank you.